



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 731

January Session, 2007

House Bill No. 5121

House of Representatives, May 3, 2007

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. MERRILL of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CREATING AN ACCOUNT WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE REMEDIATION OF ABANDONED MINES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) There is established an
2 account to be known as the "remediation of abandoned mines account"
3 which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General
4 Fund. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Commissioner
5 of Environmental Protection for the purposes of grants to property
6 owners to pay for or reimburse the costs, expenses and other
7 obligations incurred or that will be incurred for the remediation of
8 abandoned mines located on commercial or residential property.

9 (b) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may adopt
10 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
11 general statutes, that set forth the criteria for such grants, the method
12 of application, and the process for approval of such application.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
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ENV *Joint Favorable C/R*

APP

APP *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Department of Environmental Protection	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a separate nonlapsing General Fund account to be administered by the Department of Environmental Protection called the 'remediation of abandoned mines account'. The account is established to provide grants to property owners to pay for or reimburse costs or expenses from remediation of abandoned mines. To the extent that the account was to be capitalized to pay these grants, the costs would be indeterminate but significant.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5121*****AN ACT CREATING AN ACCOUNT WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND
FOR THE REMEDIATION OF ABANDONED MINES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a "remediation of abandoned mines account" as a separate, non-lapsing account within the General Fund. It requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) commissioner to provide grants from the account to pay or reimburse property owners for the costs, expenses, and other obligations they incur or will incur to remediate abandoned mines on commercial or residential property.

The bill authorizes the commissioner to adopt regulations that establish criteria for the grants, the application method, and the application approval process.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 30 Nay 0 (03/16/2007)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 48 Nay 0 (04/19/2007)